GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:683
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
MODERNISATION OF POWERLOOM SECTOR
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to modernise the powerloom sector to be prepared for the international competition consequent to the phasing out of the export quota regime by 2005;

(b) whether the Government are aware that of the approximately 16.5 lakh looms in the powerloom sector, only about 50,000 are automatic shuttle looms and less than 10,000 shuttless looms and balance are plain looms;

(c) whether a study conducted by the confederation of Indian Industry had revealed that Indian textile industry may be faced with a major crisis unless re-engineered itself with more focus on strengthening intra-industry collaborations; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) & (b) In order to tackle the main shortcomings of the Powerloom Sectorof technological obsolescence, low productivity and poor quality products, and to strengthen it to face international competition, particularly in the post MFA regime, Government of India have initiated several steps, the important ones of which are: -

(i) Coverage of powerloom machinery under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) launched w.e.f. 1-4-1999;

(ii) Announcement of a `textile package` which, inter-alia, envisages modernisation by induction of 2.5 lakh semi-automatic / automatic looms and 50,000 shuttleless looms in the powerloom sector; and

(iii) Strengthening of support structures for the decentralised powerloom sector by modernisation of Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs), setting up/ upgrading Textile Testing Laboratories and setting up Computer Aided Design Centres in the selected PSCs.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. The National Textile Policy - 2000 recognises the need for greater efficiencies in productivity through greater structural balance between different stages of processing and different sectors of the industry, and for this purpose proposes several measures including the rationalization of fiscal duty structure and formulation and implementation of various developmental schemes along the value addition chain.